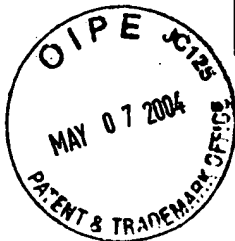


FILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

EV 365588884 US
Express Mail Label NumberMay 7, 2004
Date of Deposit

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 1761

MICHELS ET AL.

APPLICATION NO: 10/092,637

FILED: MARCH 7, 2002

FOR: COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR PROLONGING THE USEFUL
LIFE OF ENTERAL FEEDING TUBESCommissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

The Office Action of November 10, 2003 has a shortened statutory time set to expire on February 10, 2003. A three-month extension is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a).

Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis in the amount of \$950 for payment of the extension fee. An additional copy of this paper is here enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Kung
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,199
Phone No. (862) 778-7877Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 430
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080

Date:

May 7, 2004

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